(b) if so, the steps being taken to tap these resources and provide drinking water to the villages of these areas?

THE MINISTER Of STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Central Water Commission has assessed the availability of water resources in the 99 drought prone districts of the country.

*(b) 'Water' being a State subject, projects are formulated by State Governments to tap water resources to provide drinking water facilities in- the regions where it is considered essential including drought prone areas.

In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in drinking water supply to villages, Central Government provides funds by way of 100 per cent grants under Centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme.

Community Irrigation Project

1035. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to promote Community Irrigation Project;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction in the last three years;

(c) whether the list of Central funding of such projects in Ninth Five Year Plan has been finalised; and

(d) if so, the number of Community Irrigation Projects proposed to be executed in Orissa in that Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The Minsitry of Water resources has no proposal at present to promote Community Irrigation Projects, However, under the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment a Centrally sponsored scheme namely, Ganga Kalyan Yojana to provide irrigation through exploitation of Ground Water (Bore wells and Tubewells) to individuals and groups of samll and marginal farmers living below poverty line is in operation.

(b) the Ganga Kalyan Yojana which was started with effect from 1st February, 1997 under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), is now being implemented as an independent scheme from 1997-98. Yearwise Central releases for last two years are as fol lows:—

(i) 1996-97 Rs. 90.82 crore
(ii) 1997-98 Rs. 100.00 crore

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise with reference to (c) above.

Funds for sinking of artesian wells in Gujarat

1036. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided funds to Gujarat Government for sinking of artesian wells for cultivation in dry parts of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to provide funds to the State for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The Central Government do not have any scheme under which funds could be provided to the Government of Gujarat for sinking of artesian wells for cultivation in dry parts of State.

Linking of rivers in the country

1037. SHRI RAHAS BIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to link all rivers in the country together;